JOKER

#5

Speechless!

GUSTAVO DUARTE

13+ TEEN

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PRESENTS
THE JOKER
IN
GOTHAM GOTHIC
BY GUSTAVO DUARTE

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GOTHAM CITY, FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2023
THE JOKER VANDALIZES "AMERICAN
Gotham Globe
THE JOKER VANDALIZES "AMERICAN GOTHIC" AT GOTHAM
THE END

DAWN OF DC
FORGING THE FUTURE ONE HERO AT A TIME
ART BY JEFF SPOKES
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DAWN OF DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

HARLEY QUINN

AN INTERVIEW WITH TINI HOWARD

Harley enters the Dawn of DC era in *Harley Quinn* #28 from writer Tini Howard and artist Sweeney Boo, ushering in a new status quo for the title character when a fight with Two-Face leads to a new (legally mandated) gig. Plus, each issue features a backup story, as a revolving cast of all-star talent presents Harley's wild—and in-continuity!—dreams.

How is this new era of *Harley Quinn* different from what we've seen from the character in the past?

This is going to be—at least at the start—a character piece first and foremost. We'll be exploring a bit of Harley's rich...*inner life*, let's say. We're trying to see how she approaches the kind of lovely normalcy lots of heroes aspire to: an apartment with her girlfriend, Ivy, her pets, a (court-ordered) job... more on that later. *[Laughs]*

Which aspects of Harley are you looking to explore at the start? Just by the very nature of the character, she lends herself to a wide variety of stories (and storytelling).

When you're mentally ill like Harley (or me—let's get that out of the way), there's a level of self-sabotage that can feel *cosmically hard to overcome.*

It's a struggle that I've always wanted to write about, and Harley just reminds me of one of my favorite ways to overcome a struggle: by laughing about it. I think a Harley book should be laugh-out-loud funny in a way that maybe sometimes makes you say "ow."

What kind of journey is Harley on in this opening arc?

Well, when I landed on "Girl in a Crisis" as a title it sort of wrapped it in a bow for us. She's trying to find what normalcy is for her, and what it'll take to get there.

What's most exciting about collaborating with Sweeney Boo on this series?

Oh my god, what's not? Sweeney is turning in truly beautiful pages. There's something so confident and fully realized in all of her panels—it really gives me the chance to go nuts. Bright, beautiful, kinetic, real, but also just leaning into the *Looney Tunes* madness of a Harley Quinn comic. I'm having the best time with Sweeney!

I gotta also tease: the backups for this book are *incredible*. Some real modern legends in the mix, doing super cool work.

DON'T MISS *HARLEY QUINN #28*, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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